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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
15 July 1955

TO : Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Comment on Premier Bulganin's Pre-summit Statement
to Newsmen

Bulganin's pre-summit statement was read to the press while other leading members of the Soviet delegation--including Khrushchev--stood in the background, as a demonstration of Soviet unity. It was very moderate in tone, free of the usual threatening cliches. Although Bulganin asserted that the USSR is militarily strong, he did not boast, as Soviet propaganda frequently does, that the USSR would crush the aggressor in any war. The statement was free of harsh attacks on the West, although Bulganin clearly put the onus for the cold war on the West. The moderate tone was in line with other efforts to convince the world that the Soviet Union sincerely desires to reach agreements, and that any failures will be the fault of the West and particularly the United States. This was the main purpose of the statement.

In contrast to past propaganda accusing Western leaders of pessimism regarding what can be achieved at Geneva, Bulganin has now echoed Western statements by saying that "it is naive to think that we shall be able to solve all complex international problems at this conference."

Bulganin's statement reinforced previous indications of what the USSR will seek at Geneva:

1. He specifically endorsed a European security system.
2. The emphasis on the cost of an armaments race and the possibility of diverting funds hitherto used for military purposes to peaceful ends suggested a high priority for disarmament.
3. The reference to peaceful economic competition was a bid for increased world trade.
4. The admission that not all problems can be solved at Geneva foreshadowed proposals for a series of additional conferences at all levels.

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5. Bulganin once more warned against raising the Satellite issue, saying a nation's social and state structure is its domestic affair.

Bulganin's brief reference to Soviet military strength, a familiar theme of recent propaganda, was intended to counteract the threat to the Soviet negotiating position posed by any possible Western conviction that Moscow approached the summit from a position of weakness and could successfully be pressed for concessions as the price for agreement.

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